

no 10

R E S T R I C T E D

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE SECTION

W E E K L Y B U L L E T I N

For Period
20 January to 26 January
1946

R E S T R I C T E D

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W E E K L Y B U L L E T I N

SECTION I

WELFARE

General

A conference was held with Japanese authorities regarding a memorandum, AG 091 (8 Jan 46)PH, which had directed the submission of a plan to control population movements from rural areas to cities of over 100,000 population. The discussion centered around a proposed Imperial Ordinance to control such movements. Details of the proposal will be reported at a later date when the formal program is submitted to this Headquarters for approval.

Welfare Administration

A discussions were held during the week with Ministry officials regarding the new relief association proposed by the Welfare Ministry. Their preliminary proposal is to substitute a new non-governmental relief agency to administer welfare benefits, under the Welfare and Relief Plan, which are now administered by the Association of Relief for War Refugees, the Association for Relief of Veterans, and other subsidized agencies.

Social Insurance

Japanese Social Insurance officials informally proposed a plan to extend social insurance benefits to ex-servicement whose pensions and other payments will be discontinued on 1 February 1946. A preliminary study of the proposal indicates that the Japanese Government is proposing a substitute scheme for providing special treatment for ex-servicement in lieu of benefits ordered discontinued by SCAP directive.

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Foreign Nationals

A radio message was dispatched to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for clarification of policy regarding continuation of care being provided United Nations nationals and neutrals who do not desire repatriation. All present policies and directives on this subject assume that foreign nationals desire repatriation, when such is not the actual case. Many Koreans and Chinese, in particular, are refusing repatriation because they can take only limited funds (¥1000) with them on departure from Japan. In addition, many of them came to Japan voluntarily, prior to or during hostilities, and have established homes and businesses in this country.

Private Agencies

A meeting was held with the Kanto Christian Social Work Association.. A discussion ensued regarding present welfare and relief problems in Japan and the place and contribution of the private welfare agencies in relation to these problems.

SECTION II

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

General

A conference was held with representatives of the Surgeon's Office, Eighth Army, relative to communicable disease control among civilians and the expediting of civilian communicable disease reporting through Army and Military Government channels.

Problems arising from the sudden departure of the Chief Military Government Medical Officer, Eighth Army, were also discussed.

A report was inaugurated showing communicable disease cases and rates (per 100,000 per annum) by prefectures over a four week (respectively five) week) period.

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Maps showing geographical distribution of the reportable communicable disease in Japan for the year 1945 are in process of preparation.

Sanitary Engineering

1. Water Supplies. The water supply officer, ASCOM-C, reported that increased chlorine dosages in Yokohama have resulted in residuals meeting U. S. Army standards at taps in many parts of the city.

The sanitary engineer, 77th MG Company, Gumma Ken, reported that supplies of Macbashi, Numata, and Ota, and possibly two others, were being operated and chlorinated under general supervision of Army engineer personnel for consumption of occupational forces. Leakage in the Macbashi system is extremely high due to air raid damage.

Sanitary surveys in the northern half of Honshu (old Eighth Army area), completed by Japanese officials in November, have been received and are being consolidated. Many cities reported inadequate supply, but few reported the inadequacy as due to war damage. About 30 percent of the cities reported shortage or lack of chlorine, 26 percent reported no analyses made of the quality of water supplied, and several others stated, "occasionally", "infrequently", or "yearly".

2. Waste Disposal. Reports contained in the sanitary surveys indicated a strong consciousness, on the part of most Japanese public health officers and some mayors, of the danger and hazard to health in the use of human excreta as fertilizer. Several cities have constructed large sanitary collection tanks for the storage of nightsoil for three months before it is used by farmers. Shortage of labor has caused a number of cities to hold families and neighborhood associations responsible for the collection and disposal of their excreta. It is indicated that this method is not entirely satisfactory.

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3. Rodent Control. Several cities reported prevalence of rats and mice as an economic problem, with practically no control measures being taken.

Laboratory Activities

Production of Biologicals. In a conference with officials of the Japanese Ministry of Health, the agenda of the conference of the preceding week was reviewed. The following action by these officials was reported: stock-piles in former military establishments, previously designated for civilian use, will be made available under a revised plan whereby key agencies producing biologicals will receive priority to satisfy their shortages. Calves for use in manufacture of smallpox vaccine, and horses for the production of antitoxin, were secured in some number under the spur of decisions reached at the previous conference. These officials had arranged to supply funds from Japanese sources as needed, and had secured from civilian sources certain urgently needed utilities and supplies, and had delivered them to the laboratories concerned.

Standardization of Biologicals. In the course of the above conference, discussion brought to light the need for a program of standardization of biologicals employed in control of communicable disease. Experience has shown the unreliability of certain products on sale in open market. Legal responsibility for periodic assay of such products extends to diphtheria antitoxin alone. The matter was presented as one for immediate action, and assurance was received that an effective program would be established as soon as possible to cover the needs of all biologicals.

Standardization of Penicillin. A conference was held with officials of the Ministry of Health on standards to be employed in the manufacture of penicillin. They agreed to classify penicillin as a biological, not a drug.

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Accordingly, the assay and standardization of penicillin will be governed by existing and projected laws and regulations concerned with biologicals in general. It transpired that prices fixed by the Japanese Government for the sale of penicillin in Japan, are 100 to 500 times the price of the American product at the current rate of exchange. The desirability of curtailing production of penicillin until a uniform product of adequate potency was available, was made clear to these officials. They agreed to submit a revised program.

Conferences were held with representatives of a large pharmaceutical manufacturing company regarding the establishment of mass production of penicillin in Japan. A request was sent to the War Department for the services of technical experts to assist in this project.

Production of Typhus Vaccine. A conference was held with the U. S. Typhus Commission on a program of assisting Japanese laboratories in establishing methods for producing typhus vaccine on a large scale, to be employed in the later months of 1946 and subsequently.

Nutrition Activities

Additional data was supplied by the Japanese nutritionists concerned in the survey program. Evidence was brought to light that black market purchases of rationed items were occurring to a dangerous degree, threatening the stability of the entire program organized by the Japanese Government to avert mass starvation in later months.

A tabulation of the results is appended.

Port Quarantine Service

Repatriation of outgoing nationals increased 8,346 over the previous week, while incoming Japanese decreased by 1,156. A total of 75,919 persons

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passed through quarantine. No quarantinable disease was diagnosed.

On January 16, at Kakata, a case of smallpox was found on the Tokuju Maru from Pusan. All hands had been vaccinated but the passengers were merely held in quarantine at the former Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Imazu.

Venereal Disease Control

A memorandum to the Imperial Japanese Government was delivered requiring the abolition of licensed prostitution and the outlawing of contracts binding women to prostitution, was delivered to the Japanese Government. A copy of the memorandum is appended.

SECTION III

ADMINISTRATION OF HOSPITALS

The trend of the percentage of beds occupied in Japanese civilian hospitals continues downward. Latest reports from all prefectures show only 39 per cent of available beds being occupied. This conforms to the seasonal trend of previous years.

Due to several recent deliveries of war surpluses, supplies are now being received in the smaller out-lying hospitals.

SECTION IV

NURSING AFFAIRS

Reports from Japanese

A copy of the Public Health Nurses' Regulations (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) Ordinance No. 21, 31 May 1945, Imperial Ordinance No. 331, 30 May 1945.

Article 7 - The Public Health Nurses Examination will be conducted under the jurisdiction of the Prefectural Governor.

Article 19- The Public Health Nurse must carry out the instructions of the

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Chief of the Public Health Bureau.

Article 20 - The Public Health Nurse must follow the instructions of the Prefectural Governor exercising jurisdiction and will join the organization of Public Health Nurses which he authorizes.

Article 24 - These regulations will be enforced beginning with June 1, 1945.

There are 28 articles, some are sound, others are unsound, while others are carried out only on paper.

Red Cross First Aid Manuals returned to Red Cross for reprinting. Clearance was given by C.I. and E. These books do not come under the directives of 17 January 1946.

A list of suggested questions for clinical and public health nurses, both written and practical. Possibility of being used for Prefectural examinations.

Copy of curriculum now being used by St. Luke's (Japanese) Hospital for clinical and public health nurses.

List of reference books that are being used at present time in training program at St. Luke's Hospital.

Personnel

A civilian nurse has been approved as assistant in the Nursing Affairs Section.

SECTION V

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

General

Representatives of the Veterinary Affairs Sub-Section inspected the Imperial Household stables in Tokyo and the Shimofusa Imperial Horse Farm, Chiba Prefecture. Breeds and types of animals, character and quality of feeds and facilities for veterinary service were observed.

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Reports from Japanese

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Animal Disease Section, submitted an animal disease report for the month of December 1945. According to this report, the incidence of animal diseases remained low in that month.

The Hokkaido prefectural veterinarian submitted a 1945 annual report of animal disease in Hokkaido Prefecture. This report does not indicate any marked change in animal disease incidence.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Dairy and Meat Products Section, has provided a list of milk condensaries, milk driers, and butter factories, their names and locations.

Law No. 53, 1926, and additional regulations set forth in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Ordinance No. 6, 1927, concerning the licensing of veterinarians, have been received. These regulations contain information relative to the qualifications of applicants, fees, professional ethics, discontinuance of licenses, and fines for violation.

SECTION VI

DENTAL AFFAIRS

In the past, large quantities of dental supplies have been held up in Dental Material Control Company warehouses awaiting transportation. The Japanese Government has issued instructions that the distribution of medical and dental supplies be expedited and that such supplies be specially marked for preferential transportation.

SECTION VII

SUPPLY

A memorandum was dispatched 24 January 1946 to the Imperial Japanese Government directing the enactment of legislation for the registering,

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licensing, and classification of all narcotic dealers. The memorandum to the Japanese Government is appended.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs submitted a report showing quantities of heroin from three prefectures seized and turned over to United States Forces. The Eighth Army submitted similar reports from nine prefectures.

During an inspection trip to the Tokyo-To Medicine Control Company, six and one-half pounds of damaged cocaine hydrochloride was burned. The officials reported approximately 4,000 containers of heroin have been confiscated in Tokyo-To, but the weight has not been tabulated. The Eighth Army will take custody of this heroin and its destruction.

The Japanese Government submitted a list of eight wholesale pharmaceutical companies, plus three alternates, for the custody and distribution of Japanese military medicinal narcotics. When approved by this Headquarters, it is estimated that the list as submitted will provide approximately 40,000 cubic feet of safe storage space for these narcotic drugs.

A meeting was held with Mr. Sugiyama, Supervisor of Medicine Manufacturing, Health Ministry, to again stress the importance of immediate large scale production of smallpox vaccine. He was told that a sufficient quantity to vaccinate 15,000,000 was the absolute minimum, and that 30,000,000 was desired in the next four to six months. Subsequent reports indicate that excellent action has been taken to accomplish the goal. This matter will be constantly followed and periodic reports obtained. In the event that difficulty in obtaining raw materials is encountered, Ministry officials were requested to contact this office.

A radio was prepared to CG, Eighth Army, directing shipment of 300,000 packages of smallpox vaccine to CG, XXIV Corps, Korea, to cover civilian

requirements for a three month period. This action was taken at the request of CG, XXIV Corps and because of the epidemic proportions which smallpox has reached in Korea which, together with the repatriation program, has created an urgent need for large quantities of smallpox vaccine.

A conference was held with representatives of the Yamonouchi Pharmaceutical Company to discuss penicillin production. These representatives desire to produce penicillin on a large scale and visualize no difficulty except a lack of technical personnel to supervise manufacture.

It was discovered that the Banyu Medicine Manufacturing Company was marketing penicillin at ¥35 per ampoule. The ampoule was labelled as containing 500 units. As a consequence of this evident misuse of the available limited Japanese supply, it was considered advisable to institute controls to eliminate such practices, and to prevent future similar instances. Representatives of the Health Ministry were called to this Headquarters and were told to initiate a plan covering production, quality, and distribution of penicillin. This office has since been informed that the Institute of Infectious Diseases has been made the controlling agency for penicillin, and that the Banyu Company has been instructed to discontinue the preparation of the 500 unit package.

The Surgeon, 98th Division, reported a shortage of DDT for typhus control in the Osaka area. Investigation revealed that 10,000 pounds of DDT had been requisitioned and that shipment had been made by the Eighth Army and was obviously enroute. This shipment could not be located immediately. Arrangements were made by Eighth Army, upon request of this office, to ship 10,000 pounds by special car and was due to arrive in Osaka 25 January 1946.

The Central Medicine Control, Ltd., furnished this section the following figures:

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Distribution of controlled
medicines in December 1945 ¥8,582,320

Purchases of controlled med-
icines from manufacturers
in December 1945 ¥4,984,985

The Hoshi Medicine Company will be granted permission to resume operations on 1 February 1946. This company was suspended 26 November 1945 for violation of SCAP directive which prohibited the manufacture of narcotics.

A visit was made to the Kitasato Institute for the purpose of determining production capacity and existing shortages of raw materials. Representatives of the Health Ministry were present during the visit in order that they could be appraised of existing shortages of raw materials.

The shortage of stomach of pigs and horses is the principal limiting factor in the production of diphtheria antitoxin and diphtheria toxoid. A branch laboratory located in Iwakawa, Kogoshima Prefecture, will begin the production of smallpox vaccine early in February. Representatives of the Health Ministry indicated that they would render assistance in obtaining raw materials mentioned above and report action to this office. Investigation revealed that Health Ministry officials had already alleviated shortages previously pointed out.

SECTION VIII

LEGAL

The Japanese Health Ministry reports that the new ordinance, with more severe penalties for traffic in beverages containing methyl alcohol, should be in the hands of the provincial authorities by the first of February.

SECTION IX

DIRECTIVES TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

The following Memoranda to the Imperial Japanese Government were

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initiated in this Section during the week:

1. AG 726.7 (21 Jan 46)PH, "Abolition of Licensed Prostitution in Japan".
2. AG 441.1 (22 Jan 46)PH, "Establishment of an Effective System for Narcotic Control in Japan".

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